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SPEED RATE BEYOND ALL COMPREHENSION

Science has succeeded in accomplishing a feat which appears beyond all belief, and which has been deemed practically an impossibility until very recently. Astronomers have determined, and it is claimed by Harvard university, which great institution has issued a bulletin upon the matter, that the star, RX Cephei, is traveling through space at the rate of approximately two and one-half million miles an hour, or about seven hundred miles per second. This is a greater velocity than has ever before been attributed to any star that has been measured.

This star, a variable star of the so-called cluster type, has long been known to astronomers, but its velocity was never measured until recently. It is far too faint to be seen with the naked eye, being of the tenth magnitude. It is in the constellation of Cepheus, and is 3,800 light years distant from the earth, which means that the light from it which astronomers now see through their telescopes started on its journey to the earth in the time of the shepherd kings of Egypt, nearly 1,000 years before Christ. That distance is only a small fraction of the distance from the earth to some of the more distant star clusters, but the outstanding fact about RX Cephei is that its velocity as it flies through space is the greatest yet known for a star.

The speed of the star was measured at the Harvard observatory by a complicated process of observations and computations, including among other things the comparison of photographs recently taken at Harvard with others taken 31 years ago, when the observatory was just beginning its task of preserving a photographic history of the entire sky. Since that time a "sky patrol" has been kept without interruption at Cambridge, supplemented by photographs taken at the station at Arequipa, Peru, and the history of the stars down to the eleventh magnitude has been written by the stars themselves on over a quarter of a million photographic plates weighing in all one hundred and forty tons.

Most of the discoveries made by Harvard astronomers, it is said at Cambridge, are not made by looking through a telescope at night, as is popularly supposed, but by doing what was done in the case of this discovery of the speed of RX Cephei, by studying and measuring by day, in the laboratory, photographs taken at night, and by computing the significance of the changes in the brilliance or position or spectra of the stars as recorded on these plates.

The discovery of the immense speed of RX Cephei is said to be important to astronomers as suggesting that this type of variable star escapes from the globular clusters, a hypothesis suggested also by other recent observations.

FLORIDA IS DESTINED TO BECOME A VINEYARD

Through a strong belief that grapes could be produced in Florida just as well as in California or New York or Michigan there has been a persistent effort for several years to propagate and to cross several varieties, with the result that this state is producing a bunch grape every whit as good as can be found in any section of the United States. The industry has assumed large proportions, as was explained at the recent convention of grape growers held at Eustis, and data regarding the acreage already set to grapes brought out some astonishing facts. The yield in this state is most ample, so far as the yards already set have shown, while the quality is of such excellence that the market will never be glutted. In northern markets every grape sent from Florida is snapped up as the car is "set," and there

is no haggling over the prices. In fact, the grape makes an ideal crop for this state, and Putnam could add another feather to its cap if the industry could be gone into upon a commercial basis.

Thus far there has been but one holdback to the industry. That is the terms upon which the cuttings are sold by promoters of bunch grapes. Prices for cuttings have always been very conservative, and men have prepared their land, secured their stakes, and made full arrangements for the setting out of large acreages; but when came the delivery of the goods there was found a stipulation in the contract of sale that a certain number of years the selling firm was to have full right and title to all the cuttings from the new growth. Thus the buyer, figuring that in two years the sale of his cuttings would more than pay for the first cost of the stock, leaving his vineyard very much to the "velvet," would find that he was merely serving as agent for the propagator. In the majority of cases the deal was then called off—as the "sale" really resolved itself into a mere lease. The greed of the graper is holding back the development of thousands of acres, and the consequent keeping from the state of a huge sum of money which would each season be brought into the state from the sale of splendid grapes which could be shipped to all sections of the north.

EDUCATION HAS TO DO WITH MINDS AND SOULS

Dade county is not the only section of the state in which there have been difficulties in connection with the schools. And fortunately, now, there is daylight ahead in the county, and our troubles seem to be largely past. This has been accomplished because the people as a whole wanted the schools to continue, and the opinion of the public found ways to register itself effectively, says the Miami Herald, editorially.

In Palatka the school board has decided that it will be necessary to close the schools, because the people have not responded to an appeal for funds. There is some justification for the feeling that there should not be an appeal for voluntary contributions to support the schools. They should be supported by taxation. Only under the most serious circumstances should a drive for school funds be permitted.

While this is true, it is rather difficult to understand the attitude of some people regarding the schools. The Palatka News reports the case of two members of the common council, who are school patrons, who expressed a preference for having their children work in factories or on the farm to attending school.

This is carrying out the vocational idea in education with a vengeance. There is a movement today in education to take the farm and the factory and the office into the school, which may be a desirable thing. It is very doubtful whether it is desirable to turn the factory and the farm into schools, and make them the only schools.

Some people have won considerable material success without very much schooling. The present generation, however, will not be very well equipped for life without educational training such as the schools alone can give. Lie means something more than making a living. The community that simply produces capable factory workers or farm hands is hardly a civilized community. Education has to do with minds and souls as well as hands, and mere toil can never give a child the heritage to which he is entitled.

PALATKA IS FORTUNATE REGARDING FIRE LOSSES

Promptness in answering the calls has much to do with the small losses felt in Palatka from fires, and the

department is to be complimented because of this. A certain amount of credit is also due because of the turning in of the alarms at the first indications that a fire may become serious.

There should be no delay in turning in a call for the fire department—using, of course, a modicum of sense regarding a bit of smoke. It is better to blunder over the first belch of a blaze and summon the fire department, even though it shall be shown that it was needless, than to hesitate until the flames shall have reached that stage where they are difficult to handle. It is because of these precautions, which should always be continued, and because the department is prompt in response, that the fire losses have for some time been kept at practically nothing.

For a couple of weeks the department has been short in its paraphernalia, but that lack will be filled at once. The large engine has been "dolled up" for another year—but, fortunately, its absence from the house has not been missed because of the extra alertness of the men connected with the department.

BOWEN HAD CLEVER SENSE OF HUMOR

Few of the ordinary people have the same keen sense of humor possessed by one J. A. Bowen, acting superintendent at the city farm in Jacksonville. He caused one of the negro convicts to be wrapped in a gunny sack and placed in a pit. Then he had a couple of feet of earth thrown in on top of him, shot off his revolver several times, and then caused a couple of shovels of ants thrown down the neck of the half-buried man. The prisoner had done nothing to cause any of the cruelties. He had been sent to the farm as a punishment for some illegal act he committed, it is true; but his imprisonment was for corrective measures only. So long as he broke none of the rules of the institution he deserved only decent treatment. Bowen admits that he did the things charged, but explains that it was all a "joke." If the official is in the habit of playing pranks of that sort then he is ripe for a prison term or for a situation in a cell at Chattahoochee. He is certainly a dangerous man to allow loose. There are some men, only a few, thank God, who consider it a "joke" to spit tobacco juice in a dog's eye; others will take a fence-stake and beat a mule or a horse till the animal falls; others will hogtie a negro and pour biting stinging ants down his back. Humor is a splendid thing to have and to use; but there are some of sufficient discernment to discriminate between humor and downright cruelty that bears the imprint of the Roman inquisition. Apparently Bowen is not one of that recognizing class.

CHRISTMAS SHOULD NOT BE ABBREVIATED

Spelling out the word "Christmas" is being advocated by the press press throughout the country, and it is to be hoped that all who have been abbreviating so that it would appear as "Xmas" will heed the hints that have been made. There is no more sense in Xmas than in Xian, and it is certain that every Christian in the country would utter a strong protest over the latter abbreviation.

The origin of Xmas is in doubt. The plan has been in use for many years, however; but more recently the better informed have discarded the practice. There is something more in accord with the spirit of the season, more emblematical of the holy thoughts at this time of the year, more symbolical of what the day is supposed to typify, in the use of the word Christmas than of the corruption to a simple and senseless "Xmas."

By all means, let "Christmas" stand out full and clear in all cases where there is reference made to the coming holiday season. It is sane, sensible, and the more easily pronounced.

ONE PECULIARITY OF LIBERALITY

Within five hours the Greeks of Tarpon Springs raised in cash ten thousand dollars for the relief of the Greeks across the sea, and the money was immediately forwarded.

Within ten days the liberal-hearted people of Tampa raised a cash fund of seventy-one dollars for the relief of the very needy settlers who were flooded out along the shores of Lake Okechobee.

Possibly "distance lends enchantment to the view," but at the same time there has been something written about charity beginning at home.

Pith in Paragraph

About the only hope for Europe is a second mortgage.

First act: National aspirations. Second act: Grand row. Third act: American relief.

Chorus of allies: "The play's the thing; darn what happens to Greece."

Europe might get along with fewer reverses if she wasn't quite so perverse.

A republic is a place where everybody agrees that something ought to be done about it.

Few things in life are more pathetic than a very young writer's effort to be a wicked cynic.

Hearing it by radio is just as good, unless you enjoy watching the tenor twist his face that way.

We look forward to January 1 with misgivings. There are so few things left to swear off of.

About all you can say for any political upheaval is that it makes a new set of grouches.

Never despair. If you are dull, stupid and dumb, you may get a reputation as a good listener.

It appears that a burning issue in Europe is something that makes it hot for the little fellows.

You can say one thing for lunch No. 3 on a diner. It makes you glad you didn't try No. 2 or No. 1.

If ever the stork visits Doorn, will they call the new arrival crown prince of the imaginary empire?

The Bohemian is much like other people except for his habit of parking cigarettes where they will burn the table edge.

Correct this sentence: "He made an immediate and remarkable success, but he made no increased use of the pronoun I."

International influence appears to be impartially divided among the British lion, the French Tiger, and American bull.

What she does to your nails is worth a quarter; what she does with her eyes is worth the other seventy-five cents.

When he is born, his mother gets the attention; at his marriage the bride gets it; at his funeral the widow gets it.

When a cow is too old to milk and too tough for beef, she still is profitable if there are amateur deer hunters in the vicinity.

Well, it's nice of Turkey not to demand an indemnity from the Allies.

Even the hard-boiled fall for soft soap.

The chief fault of foreign policies seems to be that they conflict.

You may think you are abused, but suppose you were a neutral zone.

Still, a holy war probably couldn't be much worse than a righteous one.

They say bootleg hootch has a depressing effect on the heart. At any rate it has that effect on the accelerator.

The inability of nations to trust one another may show an evil heart, but it shows sound judgment.

It doesn't pay to be wasteful. If the nations had hanged the Kaiser, they wouldn't have anything to laugh about.

There must be something in athletics. We never heard of a star football man failing to pass his exams.

Another good way to prevent gray hair is to have the brake linings examined at intervals.

It is just as well that justice is blind; she might not like some of the things done in her name if she could see them.

Every place has its disadvantages. In the city one smells Turkish cigarettes, and in the country one smells that kind of pipes.

Now that the flapper is disappearing, we must look about for something else to blame for everything.

A bachelor is a man who was never near a girl while under the influence of moonlight and moonshine.

Considering what bootleg has done to stomachs, even if beer should come back it probably wouldn't recognize the old place.

Arithmetic: If a man with \$10,000 opens a grocery store and does a credit business, how long before he decides that everybody is crooked?

The joke about George the fifth and the other four-fifths has now been used by 76,342 jokesmiths since Irvin Cobb first said it.

Merely Drummings

From
The Thought Tank
By THORN

Went Altogether Too Far

The Gray Moss Inn, Located at Clearwater, Must be mighty progressive; But in giving announcement Of its Thanksgiving dinner It sure went the full limit. And drew upon its imagination For several facts, you know, Which failed to be facts. It advertised what it called "An Old Fashioned "New England Pilgrim's Dinner;" But the menu contained Such a complement of things The Pilgrims never heard about That it was to chuckle. First:

"Queen Olives" and "Pecan Nuts." Those old duffers never saw An olive, either queen or knave, And as for pecans They must have ordered those By means of the telephone.

"Celery in branches" Was another modern fad The Gray Moss Inn Tried to lay on the Pilgrims. Also, right then and there, "Roast Vermont Turkey"

The menu positively declared Was eaten by the Pilgrims,* Although there was no Vermont, And, at that time, Wild turkeys were very much Out of the markets.

"Candied sweet potatoes" Is another menued dish The Gray Moss Inn Insists the Pilgrims had At their New England dinner. Although the sweet potato Was not introduced From Central America To that section of the country Until long years after

The youngest Pilgrim in the lot Had become a great grandfather. Erlong this line I'm wondering If those Pilgrims served "Spanish grapes," "Cranberry sauce" And mayonnaise dressing

At their Thanksgiving dinner? The Gray Moss Inn, however, Intimates that they did;

Hence all this choice food Was classed under that head. But if ever a Pilgrim father Should hear of that menu,

And see what was allowed To be on his own table Away back long centuries ago, I bet he'd gnash his teeth

Till his whiskers jarred off. "Olives!" "Celery!" "Spanish grapes!"

Jerusha's Jerusalem!— Didja ever hear the like? If the Clearwater papers Will print these few comments

I may get an invitation To An Old Fashioned Pilgrim's Christmas Dinner At the Gray Moss Inn. Then, again, I may not. Yassam.

I thank you.

QUEEN MARY BUYS

KNITTING JUMPERS

London, December 2—If the members of London's elite sewing circle spoke American, they would declare that Queen Mary "wields a mean needle." However, they did use the English equivalent of this American term of approbation when they saw several soft wool quilts made by the queen's own hand.

These manifestations of Queen Mary's handiwork are among 42,000 garments donated to sick and poor children. The contributions were recently exhibited by the Queen's London Needle Work Guild at the Imperial Institute. In the same exhibit were several beautiful fawn colored jumpers knitted by Princess Mary.

Bootblack Wanted Money for the Job Or the Shine Back

(By Associated Press)

Mexico City, Dec. 2—The American tourist with his scant knowledge of Spanish and his supposedly unlimited affluence, is always an object of greed for certain classes of vendors in Mexico. A Mexico City bootblack, however, went the limit recently when he attempted to charge two pesos for a shine.

The American refused to pay, the boy, was obdurate, and, as a last resort, said he would accept no money but would remove the shine. He started to do so with a sharp knife, much to the detriment of good shoe leather. A gentleman hove in sight and the polish was restored. The American retaliated by paying only half price.

NOTICE
I am back in the city and resuming practice. DR. JOHN T. HOSEY.
12-3

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Loveland, The Realtor